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CURRENT LITERATURE

BOOK REVIEWS

Vegetation der Erde

IX. AFRICA

As previously noted in these pages,[1] ENGLER has in contemplation an elaborate phytogeographic treatment of tropical Africa. The second volume of this series was the first to appear, and it is now followed by the first volume, which is issued in two parts.[2] The first volume is devoted to as much detail as is now possible to a consideration of the vegetational conditions of Africa. This volume makes it particularly clear that Africa is no longer the "unknown continent"; particularly is this true, so far as tropical Africa is concerned, of the German possessions, each of these being well delineated phytogeographically by maps in colors. Most of the volume is taken up by a presentation of the chief phytogeographical subdivisions of Africa, which, as here treated, are (1) Mediterranean Africa with the bordering parts of the Sahara, (2) tropical East Africa, (3) the southwestern region of winter rain, (4) the summer rain region of West Africa, (5) Macronesia. This portion of the work is richly and beautifully illustrated by photographs of desert landscapes in North Africa, cuts of representative Saharan plants, and by similar photographs and cuts in much greater number from tropical East Africa, including especially Abyssinia, the Somali Peninsula, and German East Africa. The account of the summer rain region of West Africa also is very full and is finely illustrated, especially in the portions dealing with the German territory. The work closes with a treatment of the general geographic conditions (including temperature and precipitation data, and an account of the various types of soils), a short description of the regions at different altitudes, a brief survey of the plant formations, and an account of the floral constituents and the general floristic relationships of Africa. Under the last head many genera are tabulated as to their affinities, whether pantropic, paleotropic, endemic, etc. Also there is a short account of the geological development of the present vegetation.

XI. THE BALKAN COUNTRIES

ADAMOVIĆ, who for many years has published important papers dealing with the vegetation of Servia and neighboring lands, has now issued a monograph of the Balkan countries for the *Vegetation der Erde.*[3] After an account of the topography, hydrography, geology, and climate, there is a rather detailed treatment of the ecological factors, considerable attention being paid to the soil and to the plants which are confined to or are dominant on certain soils. Approximately half of the work is devoted to a consideration of the plant formations. Among the more interesting of these are such Mediterranean formations as (1) the mixed forests with the manna ash (*Fraxinus Ornus*); (2) the *Aesculus* forests; (3) the Sibljak formation, which is a type of thicket characteristic of the Balkan countries, including *Paliurus*, *Cotinus*, *Syringa*, and other representative forms; and (4) the Tomillares, a xerophytic formation, dominated by coarse herbs. On the hills and mountains there occur formations comparable to those of Central Europe, such as oak and chestnut forests, forests of *Pinus leucodermis* and *P. nigra*, fir forests, forest of *Picea Omorica*, beech forests, sand formations, mountain meadows, and mountain thickets. The third and fourth parts of the volume are devoted respectively to an account of the floristic composition and relationship of the region both horizontally and vertically, and to a developmental treatment of the Balkan vegetation from the Tertiary to the present. The region contains many interesting Tertiary relicts. In comparison with the ENGLER monographs on Africa, the Balkan volume is somewhat sparingly illustrated, and almost wholly by reproductions from photographs; the few illustrations, however, are excellently chosen.

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[1] BOT. GAZ. **50**:468. 1910.

[2] ENGLER, A., und DRUDE, O., Die Vegetation der Erde. IX. ENGLER, A., Die Pflanzenwelt Afrikas insbesondere seiner tropischen Gebiete. Bd. I. pp. xxviii+1029. *maps 5. pls. 47. figs. 708.* Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1910. *M* 60 (subscription *M* 45).

XII. THE PERUVIAN ANDES

This volume is the second one of the series to treat of American vegetation. The general plan of the other volumes is followed, though the consideration is mainly floristic, very little being said regarding the formations.[4] WEBERBAUER, the author of the treatise, has spent several years of study in Peru, and is known to plant geographers by various papers dealing with Peruvian vegetation. Following the usual bibliography of literature and an account of the topography and climate, there is a survey of the plant families represented. Most of the volume is devoted to a detailed account of the vegetation by "zones," that is, by altitudinal subdivisions. These subdivisions are the Misti zone (2200–3400 m.) and the Tola zone (3400–4300 m.) on the western slope in southern Peru, the Loma zone of the coast, the northern desert zone, the central Sierra zone, the northern Sierra zone, the high

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[3] ENGLER, A., und DRUDE, O., Die Vegetation der Erde. XI. ADAMOVIĆ, L., Die Vegetationsverhältnisse der Balkanländer (Möische Länder) unfassend Serbien, Altserbien, Bulgarian, Ostrumelien, Nordthrakien, und Nordmazedonien. pp. xvi+567. *maps 6. pls. 41. figs. 11.* Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1909. *M* 40 (subscription *M* 30).

[4] ———, Die Vegetation der Erde. XII. WEBERBAUER, A., Die Pflanzenwelt der peruanischen Anden. pp. xii+355. *maps 2. pls. 40. figs. 63.* Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1911. *M* 28 (subscription *M* 20).

Andes or Puna with its wonderful xerophytic forms, the eastern sclerophyll forests, the northern Paramo, and the luxuriant eastern tropical forests. This part of the work is rather fully illustrated by excellent cuts and photographic reproductions. A short section follows on the culture plants, the volume concluding with an account of the geological development of the Peruvian flora, mostly in the form of tabulations.—H. C. COWLES.

Plant life of Maryland

"The plant life of Maryland"[5] is the title of a volume issued as a Special Publication of the Maryland Weather Service, and is one of a series of reports of unusual completeness and excellence. The first of these reports dealt with the physiography and meteorology of the state; the second with the climate and weather of Baltimore and vicinity; and this, the third volume, presents the plant life in its relations to the physiography and climate, also inquires into the correlations between natural vegetation and crop possibilities, and includes the agricultural features and forest resources of the state.

The main part of the volume is by SHREVE, who directed the botanical survey. His introduction summarizes the geography, climatology, topography, mineralogy, and soils of Maryland. In Part II, after a brief history of field botany in the state, he discusses the floristics according to the present knowledge of the flora, comparing the three zones (coastal, midland, and mountain) with respect to the number and species of plants, and the floristic relations of the zones to each other and to other regions.

Part III occupies the body of the book and presents the ecological plant geography. SHREVE considers first the eastern shore district of the coastal zone under the several divisions: upland, swamp, marsh, aquatic, dune, and strand vegetation. Comparison of this district with the coastal plain of New Jersey and of the southern states brings out striking variations. CHRYSLER treats the western shore district of the coastal zone under the following topics: forests (upland, lowland, and cypress swamps), marshes (fresh and salt), peat bogs, strand, and cultivated plants, the chief interest being in his discussion of the succession of the forest types and in the transition of salt to fresh water marshes, this region affording unusual opportunities for such studies. In the lower district of the middle zone, the vegetation is classified by SHREVE according to the soil types, the topographical and general physical conditions being here uniform, and the vegetation less diversified than elsewhere. The upper district of the midland is divided into four natural belts of ridges and valleys, and the characteristic plant life of these divisions is discussed by BLODGETT. SHREVE describes the mountain zone under seven headings: slopes,

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[5] SHREVE, FORREST, CHRYSLER, M. A., BLODGETT, FREDERICK H., and BESLEY, F. W., The plant life of Maryland. 4to. pp. 533. *pls. 39. figs. 15.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1911.